

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Laurel Lee
Secretary of State
Department of State, Division of Elections
Room 316, R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Governor DeSantis and Secretary Lee,

We write in support of the several requests by our Supervisors of Elections (SOE) to safeguard Florida's 2020 Primary and General Elections.

We thank you for requesting Florida's share of elections funding under the CARES Act. We believe it is critical that the state adopt a distribution formula to award these funds as grants to our county supervisors prior to the primary and general elections. This will ensure each supervisor has sufficient resources to meet the increased costs of holding these elections during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We will continue to do our part on the federal level by adequately funding the United States Postal Service to handle the increased demand to vote by mail.

On April 7, 2020, the Florida SOEs requested guidance regarding the flexibility of voting locations, an increase of early voting days, and other key recommendations to protect voter access and safety for our elections. Time is of the essence to respond to these requests as soon as possible so there is enough time for them to be implemented for the 2020 primary election, and to be consistent for the 2020 general election.

It's also essential that we have safe polling places. We urge you to assist each Supervisor to procure personal protection equipment for their poll workers. Given the likely lack of poll workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic concerns, we strongly encourage you to call upon the Florida National Guard to conduct poll worker duties to fill the gap where necessary. To avoid any unintended voter intimidation, we believe our Florida National Guard would need to be plain-clothed. We also welcome alternative ideas to sufficiently staff our polling places.

Thank you for your continued work with the Florida Congressional Delegation and for your full and fair consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlie Crist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charlie" being more prominent than the last name "Crist".

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lois Frankel". The signature is written in a cursive style, with "Lois" and "Frankel" clearly legible.

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Mucarsel-Powell". The signature is very stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederica S. Wilson". The signature is cursive, with "Frederica" and "Wilson" being the most distinct parts.

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress